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Miralles et al.

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(54) **USE OF HYDROXYCARBOXYLATES FOR WATER HARDNESS CONTROL**

(56) **References Cited**

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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 655 days.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to compositions including threshold agents, and methods of use thereof. The threshold agents can include hydroxycarboxylate compounds present at an amount sufficient to control water hardness. The threshold agents are present in the wash solution at a molar amount less than the molar amount of water hardness ions present.

8 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

